Sword Quest 3

WATERWORLD™

POWERS OF PRIME

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BEHOLD THEM, YE LOVERS OF DERRING-DO...YE PURVEYORS OF *MISH ADVENTURE...*

...BEHOLD THESE *GOLD-HAIRED THINGS* WHO BUT AN INSTANT AGO PLUNGED HEADLONG INTO A GLEAMING, MYSTIC *CHALICE* WHOSE FINDING HAD MADE *MASTERS* OF THEM BOTH.

BEHOLD THEM NOW, CARRIED DOWN, *DOWN* INTO THE UNCHARTED DEPTHS OF A *WORLD UNDER WAVE.*

I--I CAN'T BELIEVE MY *EYES!*

IT'S JUST LIKE THE *IMAGE* WE SAW--IN THE BOTTOM OF THE *CHALICE*--BEFORE WE *DIVED!*

THEIR NAMES ARE *TORR* AND *TARRA*, AND THEY HAVE JUST ACCEPTED THE *THIRD CHALLENGE* OF THEIR--

BOOK THREE

WATERWORLD

A CROWN-- AND IT'S NO MIRAGE!

IT'S REAL-- AND IT'S MAGNIFICENT! IF WE CAN ONLY--

BUT, EVEN AS THE PLUMMETING SIBLINGS RECOVER CONTROL OF THEIR LIMBS, AND BEGIN TO ARC THEIR LITHE BODIES TOWARD THE GLEAMING PRIZE--

--IT SWIMMERS BEYOND THEIR REACH WITH A FRUSTRATING--

WE SHOULD'VE KNOWN! WHATEVER THAT THING WAS-- I GUESS IT WASN'T FOR THE LIKES OF A COUPLE OF THIEVES-TURNED-WARRIORS!

POPP!

EACH OF THE OTHER TWO WORLDS WE'VE ENCOUNTERED * HAD A SPECIAL TALISMAN, WHICH WOULD HELP US IF WE GRASPED IT.

THE CROWN MUST BE WATERWORLD'S!

* EARTHWORLD AND FIREWORLD-- ALSO AVAILABLE ON ATARI CARTRIDGES.

MY LUNGS-- THEY'RE ABOUT TO BURST! HUH?

NOW WHAT'S TARRA GESTURING AT? IT BETTER BE--

OH, NO!

AS IF

WE DIDN'T HAVE

ENOUGH TROUBLE ALREADY...

...WE'RE CAUGHT IN SOME KIND OF WHIRLPOOL SPOUT!

BORN OF THE MYSTIC CHALICE, THE GARGANTUAN SPOT CARRIES THE YOUTHFUL, FATE-TOSSED PAIR HIGH, HIGH INTO THE AIR--

--FAR ABOVE THE ICE-FLECKED, WATER-COVERED *SURFACE* OF THIS EERIE NEW WORLD THEY HAVE NOT EVEN TIME TO GLIMPSE--

--ONLY TO *DROP* THEM AGAIN, SOME DISTANCE AWAY!

UGHHH! LANDED AMID-- SOME STRANGE KIND OF *SEAWEED*-- GETTING ALL TANGLED UP!

WONDER WHAT KIND OF WORLD *THIS* ONE'LL TURN OUT TO BE--

--IF WE EVER STOP BEING *TOSSED AROUND* LONG ENOUGH TO TAKE A *LOOK* AT IT!?

GOOD GIRL, TARRA! *FREE* ALREADY-- FLOATING TOWARD THE SURFACE--AND ANOTHER GULP OF *AIR!*

MY ARMOR'S LIGHT-WEIGHT, TOO, SO I'LL JUST--

THEY'RE *HOLDING* ME--LIKE SOME SORT OF *NET!*

HUH!?

TARRA--!

NO USE! SHE DOESN'T EVEN *SEE* ME-- PROBABLY THINKS WE FELL *LEAGUES* APART!

NEED *AIR!* BUT-- SHOULDN'T TAKE MY *KNIFE* LONG TO SAW THROUGH--

--GODS! TH-THIS *WON'T CUT*-- HALF *FAST* ENOUGH!

THEN--I'M GOING TO *DIE* HERE-- ONLY A *FEW METERS* BELOW THE SURFACE!

NO! I CAN'T--I *WON'T* ACCEPT THAT! IF I DIE-- I DIE *TRYING!*

GOT TO *KEEP* HACKING AWAY AT THIS STUFF-- EVEN IF--

--EH? TARRA-- IS THAT--?

YYIIIIIII

HOLD IT! IT'S NOTHING BUT A MAN'S SKELETON, TRAPPED BY THE SEAWEED-- AND WEARING SOME KIND OF FANCY HELMET.

DON'T KNOW HOW HE HAPPENED TO BE DOWN HERE IN DAVY JODEN'S LOCKER, AS THEY CALL IT--

BUT THOSE THINGS THAT FIT WHERE HIS NOSTRILS USED TO BE MIGHT JUST BE BREATHING APPARATUS--

--AND SINCE MASTER BONES HERE WON'T BE USING THEM ANYMORE--!

THANK THE GODS! I--I WAS RIGHT! FIRST TIME TODAY!

NEVER SAW ANYTHING LIKE THIS HELMET BEFORE.

MUST HAVE SOME WAY OF FILTERING THE SEAWATER, TURNING IT INTO AIR-- SOMEHOW.

WELL, ALL THAT MATTERS IS THAT NOW I'VE GOT PLENTY OF TIME TO CUT MY WAY OUT OF THESE-- HUH?

UH-OH!

SOME DAYS IT DOESN'T PAY TO GET OUT OF YOUR OWN WORLD!

AS IF THESE *TENTACLES*-- AREN'T HOLDING ME TIGHT ENOUGH--

--I SURE DON'T LIKE THE LOOKS OF *THOSE* THINGS COMING AT--

ARRGH

MY *ARMOR*-- PROTECTED ME-- JUST *BARELY!* MAYBE-- CRACKED A *RIB* OR THREE --

HONK!

--BUT SINCE MY *MAIL SHIRT'S* -- NOW ABOUT AS MUCH PROTECTION -- AS A SHIELD OF *WET PARCHMENT*--

--MIGHT AS WELL GET *RID* OF IT-- AND USE THE EXTRA *SPEED* I GAIN --

--TO *STRIKE* AT OLD SNAKY-LEGS-- *FASTER* THAN HE'D THINK I--

G-*GOT* HIM! BUT--HIS *GRIP*-- *SO TIGHT!*

EVERYTHING -- GOING *BLACK*--!

IN ITS EXTREME AGONY THE GIGANTIC OCTOPOD DOES WHAT TORR'S HUMAN MUSCLES AND PURLOINED DAGGER COULD NEVER HAVE DONE IN TIME

IT RIPS THE RESTRAINING NET OF GATHERED SEAWEED ASUNDER, AS IF THERE BUT A THING MADE OF STRANDS OF ROTTED GRASS.

AND, MOMENTS LATER, OUT OF THE MAD WELTER OF SEAWEED AND SLAUGHTER.

. . TWO SEPARATE OBJECTS, BOTH GLEAMING IN THEIR OWN WAYS, GO FLOATING UP.

BECOMING ENTANGLED BY AN ERRANT FATE AS THEY RISE SLOWLY, INEXORABLY SURFACEWARD.

AS ABOVE WHERE ICY WINDS BLOW LIKE INVISIBLE MESSENGERS OF DEATH ACROSS A WORLD SEEMINGLY ALL BLUE AND WHITE

TORR!

WHERE ARE YOU, TORR??

THE ONLY ANSWER IS THE RENDING AND CRACKING OF ICEBERGS MUFFLED BY DISTANCE AND MIST

H HE DIDN'T COME UP! THAT MEANS - EVEN THOUGH IT S EVEN COLD ENOUGH UP HERE TO MAKE ICICLES OUT OF A DRAGON'S BREATH

I VE GOT TO GO BACK AFTER H M

SO MURKY! CAN T

WAIT! SOMETHING ASCENDING FROM BELOW--

TORR ?

NO!!

OH, GODS--

HE'S DEAD

DEAD!

NO NOT QUITE YET, DEAR TARRA

BUT SOON VERY SOON

AND I'VE PERISH ?

. . SHALL HIS GOLD-TRESSED *TWIN* BE FAR BEHIND ?

AH *MY KING!* THE CHAMBER OF *KOMUSUBO* IS HONORED BY YOUR MOST GRACIOUS PRESENCE

EVEN *MY* MAGIC CANNOT TOUCH THEM *DIRECTLY* FROM AFAR, O TYRANNUS

SEEK NOT TO STALL ME WITH YOUR HONEYED WORDS, WIZARD!

WELL? HAVE YOU DONE AS I COMMANDED?

HAVE YOU FOUND A WAY TO *DESTROY* THOSE DANGEROUS WHELPS, ERE THEY FIND THE *SWORD OF ULTIMATE SORCERY* WHICH THEY SEEK?

OR DID I SLAY THEIR NOBLE *PARENTS*, YEARS AGO ONLY TO BE *OVERTHROWN* BY THEM ONE DAY--AS FORETOLD IN *YOUR OWN PROPHECY*?

FORGETFULNESS? WILL YOU MAKE THEM *FORGET* THAT, WHEN FIRST WE LEARNED OF THEM, THEY WERE MERE *THIEVES* IN THE SHADOW OF MY CASTLE, *DARKSPIRE*--

BUT I CAN LAY THE HAND OF *FORGETFULNESS* UPON THEM-- WHILST THEY LIE IN THEIR CURRENT *WEAKENED STATE*

--AND NOW, THEY HAVE BECOME YOUTHFUL *WARRIORS*, INSTEAD?

MY SPELL CAN MAKE THEM FORGET *FAR MORE* THAN THAT SIRE.

EVEN IF THEY MANAGE TO *SURVIVE* THE ICY TORMENTS AND SMOTHERING WATERS THEY NOW ENDURE

OBSERVE

I BUT STIR MINE ENCHANTED CAULDRON WITH THE WAND OF WONDERMENT-- AND EVEN IF THEY LIVE-

THEIR MEMORIES SHALL BE HOPELESSLY SCRAMBLED- THEIR PASTS AN UNKNOWN VOID TO THEMSELVES

THEY'LL FORGET NOT ONLY THEIR SWORDQUEST, BUT ALL THAT HAS TRANSPIRED IN THEIR YOUNG LIVES UNTIL THIS MOMENT!

"OBSERVE KING TYRANNUS AS THE MEMORIES ARE WASHED AWAY IN THE WATERS OF OBLIVION

'FIRST THEIR TWIN BIRTH DAUGHTERS OF YOUR MIGHTIEST WARRIOR AND HIS LADY

" AS WELL AS YOUR RAGE, AT LEARNING OF THEIR VERY EXISTENCE, IN FULFILLMENT OF THE PROPHECY

THEY'LL FORGET THEY EVER LEARNED HOW YOU HAD THEIR FATHER SLAIN-- OR HOW THEIR MOTHER LEAPED TO HER DEATH AFTER GIVING YOU OVER SECRETLY TO THE CARE OF A MASTER THIEF AND HIS WIFE

THEY'LL NOT REMEMBER THEY COULD CALL UPON THE MYSTERIOUS FIGURES MENTOR AND MENTARRA FOR ADVICE AS THEY DID TO GUIDE THEM FIRST THROUGH EARTHWORLD

" OR NOW RECENTLY THEY INVADED MY GREAT TOWER THEN FLED INTO THE FIRST OF FOUR NETHERWORLDS IN SEARCH OF THE SWORD SHINING BRIGHTLY AS SUMMER'S SUN

" WHICH THEY MAY OBTAIN ONLY BY FIRST WINNING CERTAIN OTHER OBJECTS OF POWER

PROVIDED, OF COURSE THAT THEIR ARCHRIVAL MERMINUS THE THIEF DOES NOT GET THEM FIRST!

" AND, IF THE EVIL GODS ARE WITH US THEY WILL FIND THEIR FINAL DOOM IN THE SPHERE CALLED WATERWORLD!"

" THEN AMID THE SCORCHING DANGERS OF FIREWORLD

NEXT MOMENT, ABOVE THE WATER, *TEARS* FADE FROM TARRA'S EYES--AS SHE *FORGETS* THE VERY ONE FOR WHOM THEY WERE SHED--

--WHILE *BENEATH* THE DECEPTIVELY PLACID SURFACE

UHHHH WHERE ?

THANK THE GODS-- I'M *ALIVE*! THANKS TO THIS MASK, I'M STILL *BREATHING*! I--

HUH? WHAT'S THAT SUDDEN *CHARMING* IN THE WATER--?

SOMETHING.

YEEEOWW! SOME KIND OF GIANT *SHARK-LIKE FISH!* IT--

NO! THERE ARE *SEVERAL* OF THEM--

--AND IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'VE ALL DECIDED *I'M* THE MAIN PART OF A *ONE COURSE MEAL!*

AND ME WITHOUT SO MUCH AS A SHARP OBJECT TO CALL MY OWN!

CAN'T GO UP- THEY'D PICK ME OFF, FOR SURE

ONLY HOPE--TO DIVE DOWNWARD FAST--HOPE I CAN FIND A PLACE TO--

WHAT?! I DON'T SEE ANY CAVES HANDY--

--BUT THAT SUNKEN CITY OUGHT TO FILL THE BILL JUST FINE--IF I CAN REACH IT

I DID IT EITHER I'M THE GREATEST SWIMMER ANYBODY'S EVER SEEN - OR AT LEAST THE LUCKIEST--

--OR ELSE - WAIT A SECOND

JUST NOTICED--THOSE THINGS SEEM TO BE HOLDING BACK A BIT-

AS IF THEY WEREN'T CHASING ME SO MUCH-- AS HERDING ME

NOT THAT I DARE STICK AROUND TO FIND OUT WHICH

ANYWAY MAYBE THEY WON'T FOLLOW ME--

--N HERE!

HMMM... SOME KIND OF VAST HALL-- AND THE WHOLE PLACE SEEMS MADE OF LIVING, GLOWING CORAL

PLENTY OF FISH AROUND - BUT AT LEAST NONE BIGGER THAN I AM

THAT'S NICE NOW MAYBE AT LAST I CAN--

--RELAX

WELL, SO MUCH FOR THAT LINE OF THOUGHT

THOSE CROSSED SWORDS THEY MAY BE MY ONLY CHANCE!

NO GOOD! THEY WON'T COME LOOSE!

NOW WHAT?

THAT GIANT PEARL OR WHATEVER IT IS INSIDE THAT BIG CLAM

MAYBE I CAN HURL IT DOWN THE THROAT OF ONE OF THOSE SHARKS - IF - THEN GET AWAY WHILE IT'S CHOKING!

NOT LIKELY I KNOW BUT OTHERWISE THIS IS THE END OF THE ROAD!

BY THE GODS THEY'VE STOPPED SHORT!

IT'S THE PEARL! IT MUST BE

NOT MERELY THE ORB, MY HANDSOME YOUNG FRIEND. ONLY PARTLY.

HUH??

SHADES OF THE SPIRIT WORLD!

A GIRL - A GREEN HAIRED GIRL INSIDE THAT GIANT CLAM I TOOK THE ORB FROM

AND - SHE'S BEAUTIFUL!

WHY, THANK YOU, SIR

MY NAME IS AQUAVIA

WHAT IS YOURS?

BUT- I SEE YOU DO NOT KNOW YOUR NAME HOW STRANGE

MY ORB, IF YOU PLEASE?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, I DON T-- HEY, YOU RE RIGHT!

I DON'T REMEMBER T--

--OR MUCH OF ANYTHING ELSE!

WHAT S MORE--I SEEM TO BE TALKING! BUT HOW, DOWN HERE--?

NOT TALKING THINKING

TELEPATHY IS MUCH MORE USEFUL UNDERWATER THAN SPEECH

THAT STILL DOESN'T TELL ME WHO I AM

I SHALL CALL YOU AQUON.

IS THAT NOT A FINE NAME?

EXQUISITE! BUT WHAT MAKES YOU THINK IT S MINE?

WHAT MAKES YOU BELIEVE IT IS NOT?

YOU AWAKENED ME FROM THE PRISON IN WHICH KONJURO PLACED ME, EONS AGO

KONJURO?! THAT NAME--HAS A FAMILIAR RING, SOMEHOW

A MOST EVIL WIZARD OF THE OUTWORLDS-- WHO LAID WASTE MY KINGDOM WITH HIS MAGIC, IN THOSE DAYS WHEN I RULED AQUALANIA

WE WILL BE ABLE TO FIGHT HIM, IF STILL HE LIVES ONCE WE FIND THE CROWN OF LIFE--

--IN ITS PROPER PLACE!

BUT--THAT'S A SCEPTER, NOT A CROWN

FIRST THINGS MUST COME FIRST, AQUON

YOU KEEP CALLING ME THAT BUT WHAT?

S-SOMETHING'S HAPPENING TO ME--AS I GRASP IT

IT'S THOSE SHARKS! I CAN UNDERSTAND THEIR THOUGHTS NOW AND THEY MINE

OF COURSE THEY RESPECT THE ORB AS A SYMBOL OF MY POWER

BUT THE SCEPTER ENABLES THE HOLDER TO CONTROL THEM

THIS IS ALL SO WEIRD! IF ONLY I KNEW--

M-MY HELMET--!

YOU NEED IT NO LONGER MY PRINCE

YOU'RE RIGHT! I DON'T!

JUST AS ALL I NEED TO SHARE MY NEWLY REGAINED THRONE

'S YOU!

ABOVE A SECOND YOUTHFUL FIGURE WAKES TREMBLING WITH COLD

SHE KNOWS NOT HER NAME OR HOW SHE CAME TO BE HERE

BUT FOR THE MOMENT THAT MATTERS LITTLE

AS SHE SUDDENLY FEELS THE VERY SEA BUCKLE AND ROIL BENEATH HER

WHAT ?

THEN COME ALIVE, A THOUSAND TONS OF ERUPTING SENTIENT MASS!

WHOOSH

UNNNHH..!

YET EVEN AS SHE FLOUNDERS AMID THE ICY BRINE THE BEHEMOTH.. AND MORE OF ITS HUGE KIND -- PASS HER BY AS IF SHE WERE NO MORE THAN A PIECE OF INSIGNIFICANT FLOTSAM

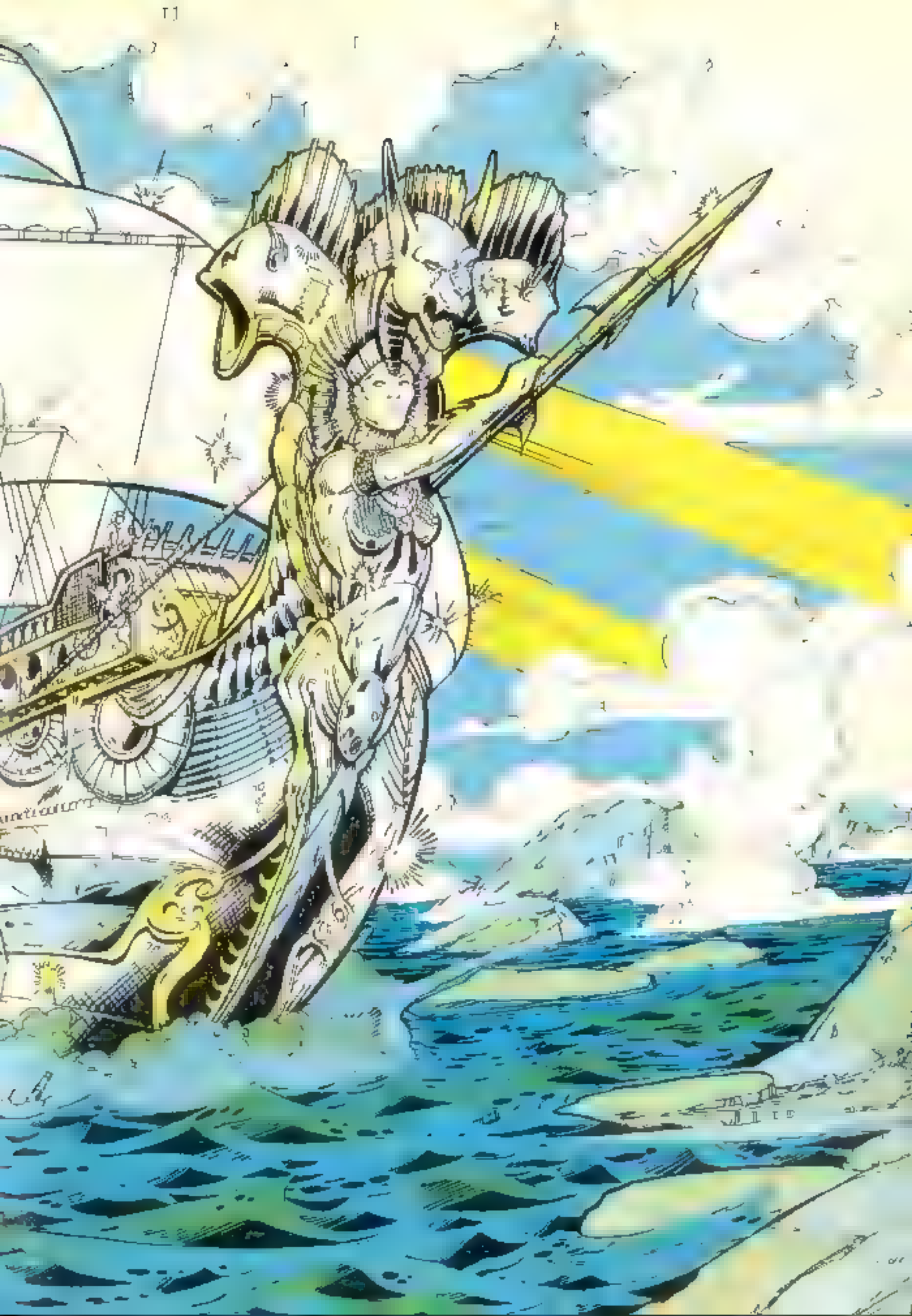
THEY ARE FLEEING SOMETHING - SOMETHING THEY FEAR --

--SOMETHING THEY HAVE REASON TO FEAR

GODS OF MY FATHERS-

-IT'S A SHIP-- A HUGE SHIP, GREATER THAN ANY I'VE EVER SEEN!

A SHIP CARVED ENTIRELY OF ICE!



JUST THEN, A STAGGERING SHAPE LOOMS, AND SHE WHO WAS TARRA SEIZES BOTH MOMENT AND MONSTER -

THEY'LL NEVER SEE ME - HEAR ME - UNLESS

--HOLDING FAST FOR DEAREST LIFE TSELF

IF - IF ONLY SOMEONE ON BOARD-- SEES ME -

PERHAPS THEY SEE HER PERHAPS NOT

BUT THEY DO SEE

THE BEHEMOTH!

GRONK

SPLASH!

WHERE--?

OR MAYBE I SHOULD SAY *WHO*-- OR EVEN *WHAT*?!

OUT OF THE POLAR SEA A *PRETTY FISH* HAULED WE, EH WORT?

AYE, SK[illegible]. BUT METHINKS WE'LL NOT THROW HER *BACK*

NO, HER *KEEP* WE *HERE* COME LITTLE WENCHIE

LISTEN, YOU APES IN SH[illegible]'S CLOTHING

KEEP AWAY FROM ME

OR I'LL DEAL HARSHLY WITH YOU BOTH

LOOKS TO ME LIKE YOU ALREADY HAVE, LASS

BONK!

OOOOF...!

AND WHO MIGHT YOU BE, OLD CROW IN THE NEST?

SWOOP DOWN HERE, AND I'LL SLICE OFF YOUR BEAK!

WHY, DON'T YOU KNOW ME IN MY PIRATE GEAR, GIRL?

HERMINUS?! IT'S NOT A NAME I KNOW, FELLOW-- BUT THEN WHY SHOULD I-

--WHEN I KNOW NOT MY OWN?

EH? YOU DON'T KNOW-?

HOLD IT THERE I'LL BE RIGHT DOWN!

HERMINUS IS USED TO MAKING A FAR STRONGER IMPRESSION ON FOLKS THAN THAT *

* IN OUR FIRST TWO GAMES. ISSUES

YOU'D BEST HURRY, HERMINUS--

SO!

--OR YOU'LL HAVE TO BECOME SAVRIK'S MEAT YOURSELF IF YOU WANT TO JAW WITH HER!

AYE DOWN HEART AND SKABB WILL SHE?

OVER THE SIDE WITH--HUH?

IT'S SOME OF YOU SCUM WHO'LL BE TICKLING THE SHARKS BELLIES FROM THE INSIDE, IF YOU DON'T WATCH YOUR TREAD--

--AND REMEMBER THAT IT'S CAP'N FROST WHO GIVES THE ORDERS ON BOARD THE PIRATE SHIP ICE QUEEN!

I WARN YOU, CAP'N-- THE MEN HAD A GOOD IDEA TO MAKE THIS ONE WALK A SHORT PLANK

I'VE HAD TRUCK WITH HER BEFORE! SHE'S TROUBLE, SHE IS. AND--

A BIT MORE QUIET NOW EH? THAT'S MORE LIKE IT!

SILENCE, KNAVE!

JUST BECAUSE WE FISHED YOU OUT OF THE DRINK NOT LONG BEFORE HER DON'T SEEK TO PUT ON AIRS!

WE COULD TOSS YOU BACK AGAIN JUST FOR YOUR INSOLENCE

NOW WHO ARE YOU, GIRL? DO YOU CLAIM TO COME FROM A WORLD OF FIRE, AS HERMINUS DOES?

I--I DO NOT KNOW WHERE I CAME FROM--OR WHO I AM, I FEAR

HMMM A LASS WITH NEITHER HOME NOR NAME AND HANDY WITH A BLADE TO BOOT!

WELL, SINCE YOU'VE NO NAME OF YOUR OWN I'LL GIVE YOU ONE

HOW LIKE YOU--DAWN-HAIR?

I LIKE IT MUCH, CAPTAIN

SINCE YOU GAVE IT TO ME

LATER

I GUESS STRANGER THINGS HAVE HAPPENED, LASS, THAN PEOPLE WHO DROP FROM THE SKY OR RIDE THE BACKS OF THE SNOW WHALES

'TIS SAID, AFTER ALL, THIS AGE OF ICE WAS THRUST UPON OUR WORLD BY A WIZARD NAMED KOKOTARO

THOSE ABOVE AND BELOW THE WAVES WERE CAVE PEOPLE THEN BUT NOW THEY DO NOT EVEN SPEAK THE SAME TONGUE

NOW SLOWLY THE ICE IS BREAKING UP, BUT - WELL, NOW

YOU WEAR THAT GEAR LIKE A CORSAIR BORN, DAWN-HAIR

MY THANKS, CAPTAIN

I WISH I KNEW IF *I* WERE OF THIS WORLD, EITHER OF *YOUR* KIND, OR OF THOSE YOU CALL THE *UH*

THE *AQUALANIANS*. BUT YOU'RE NOT ONE OF THAT SCATTERED, BARBAROUS *WATER-BREATHING* RACE

I GUESS NOT. YET WHY DO YOU KILL THE *SNOW WHALES*, AND STRIP THEIR BONES BARE?

BECAUSE THEY WOULD *SERVE* THE AQUALANIANS IF EVER THEY UNITED AGAINST US

AND I AM DETERMINED IT BE AN *AIR-BREATHER*, *MYSELF*, WHO'LL RULE THIS WATERY WORLD

ALL WILL OBEY ME, WHEN I'VE FOUND THE ELUSIVE *CROWN OF LIFE* I SEEK, DAWN-HAIR

AND WHEN I DO, *WHOEVER* YOU MAY TRULY BE.

...I MAY JUST FIND MYSELF IN NEED OF A *QUEEN* WITH HAIR LIKE THE *RISING SUN*.

CURSE CAP'N FROST

YET WITHOUT HIS SHIP, I'D HAVE *FROZEN* EVEN BEFORE I *DROWNED*

HOW CAN I FIND THE *SWORD OF ULTIMATE SORCERY* UPON THIS MAD, LANDLESS WORLD--

--WHEN SHE WHO MIGHT *LEAD* ME TO IT KNOWS NOT HER VERY *NAME*?

AND WHERE'S HER CHURLISH *BROTHER*, I WONDER?

AS HERM NUS MUSES THE BONES OF THE SLAUGHTERED *SNOW-WHALE* ARE CAST OVER THE SHIP'S SIDE

TO GLEAM PHOSPHORESCENTLY AMID *DARKLING DEPTHS*

AND SOON, BACK IN A SUB-SEA CASTLE OF CORAL AND SHELL...

YOU LOOK LOVELY!

WITH MY MEMORY GONE I'M NOT CERTAIN, AQUANA, BUT ISN'T THAT THE TYPE OF THING A MAN USUALLY SAYS TO A WOMAN, ESPECIALLY TO ONE LIKE YOU?

WHAT MATTERS IS WHICH OF US IS--

WHAT'S WRONG??

THE SNOW-WHALES' DON'T YOU HEAR THEIR CRY?

I HEAR-- SOMETHING SOMETHING PIERCING-- YET SAD--!

THAT IS THE DEATH-SONG OF THE SNOW-WHALES-- THE OLDEST ALLIED RACE OF AQUALANIA.

ONE OF THEIR NUMBER HAS BEEN BASELY SLAIN-- BY MEN WHO SAIL THE SEAS ABOVE!

COME! KONJURO FORETOLD A WAR TWIXT AIR BREATHER AND OUR PEOPLE, THE DAY HE RAISED A MAGICAL WALL OF ICE BETWEEN US--

--AND IF HIS PROPHECY IS COMING TRUE-- 'TWILL BE A WAR THAT WILL LEAVE NO ONE LIVING ABOVE THE ALL-CONQUERING WAVES!

NIGHT STILL LIES LIKE A HEAVY SHROUD UPON A WORLD DIVIDED AGAINST ITSELF

CAPTAIN ?

NO HE'S STILL ASLEEP. EXHAUSTED FROM THE DAY'S LABORS AND HIS CROWN-QUEST

YET I HEARD SOMETHING

BEST HAVE A LOOK.

HERMINIUS!?

YOU!

WARF!

DAWN HAIR? I WAS DREAMING YOU WERE PULLED, WRESTED FROM MY ARMS.. BY A SKELETAL FIGURE THAT

DAWN-HAIR? WHERE--?

NO!

WHAT *HAPPENED*, GIRL? WE DOZED FROM ALL MY BABBLE AND WHEN I WOKE -

HERMINUS-- I SAW HIM BY THE LIGHT OF MY CANDLE! HE--

I'LL CARRY OUT MY THREATS TO FEED HIM TO THE *FISHES* FOR THIS! BUT *WHY*...?

I KNOW NOT THE *WHY*, CAPTAIN-- BUT AT LEAST I KNOW THE *HOW*

HE STRUCK THE GLANCING BLOW-- WITH THIS SILVERY *SKATE!*

THEN BE GLAD YOUR BANDANNA AND FULL HEAD OF HAIR *PROTECTED* YOU, LASS-- FOR THESE ARE VERY *SPECIAL* SKATES

IF HERMINUS WANTED THEM PERHAPS HE TOO SEEKS THE *CROWN OF LIFE*, JUST AS I--

ZOUNDS! IS THE *NIGHT* TO BE AS MAD AS WAS THE *DAY?*

OHHH! WHAT'S--?

KRUNCH!

CAP'N FROST! *CAP'N FROST!* THE SNOW-WHALES-- THE *SHARKS*-- THEY'RE *ATTACKING* THE ICE QUEEN--

-- AS IF THEY WERE GUIDED BY THE HANDS OF THE VERY *GODS!*

GODS--

AIEEEE

WHAMM

--OR DEVILS?

ENOUGH BLOWS LIKE THAT ONE -- AND THOSE BEASTS'LL *SINK* THE SHIP, LEAVING US AT THE MERCY OF THE *SHARKS!*

READY THE CASKS OF DEATH!

THEY'RE READY, CAP'N'

THEN *LOWER* AWAY, ME HEARTIES--

--AND WE LL *BLAST* THE SEA-DEMONS TO KINGDOM COME!

WHROOOM!

CAPTAIN FROST--YOU'RE TEARING THOSE POOR, DUMB ANIMALS TO *PIECES!*

MUST YOU *LASH* OUT SO BLOODILY AGAINST--?

KEEP A C'VIL *TONGUE* IN YOUR HEAD GIRL! I AM CAP'N ABOARD THIS VESSEL

I LOVE *NOT* KILLING FOR ITS OWN SAKE, BUT THIS IS *WAR* WITH A *FOE UNSEEN*, AND I'LL--

SUDDENLY--

HSSSSSS

YAAA

THERE'S YOUR ANSWER, BOYS!

A SPOUT OF *BOILING*-HOT *WATER*--SHOOTING RIGHT THROUGH THE *HULL!*

BUT *WHAT* IN ALL THE SEAS COULD HAVE--?

MAY THE GODS TAKE *PITY* ON US!

NO! IT--IT *CANNOT* BE!

I'VE *HEARD* OF SUCH A THING--IN TIME-LOST *LEGENDS*--BUT I NE'ER *DREAMED*--!

HRARRRR

'TIS THE SERPENT UNSPEAKABLE!

YET, *FEARSOME* THOUGH THE SEA SNAKE BE THE NEXT *MOMENT* ALL EYES ARE FASTENED *NOT* UPON THE SKY-REACHING *REPTILE* ITSELF

--BUT UPON THE LITHE AND LOVELY FORM POISED DRAMATICALLY UPON ITS GIGANTIC HEAD

AMATEIS! LEAVE OFF YOUR MAD QUEST FOR THE CROWN OF LIFE, WHICH IS MINE BY RIGHTS--

--OR ELSE KNOW THAT ADLAMA HAS RETURNED AT LAST, TO DESTROY YOU ALL!

ADLAMA?! IF YOU BE THAT FAIRY-TALE QUEEN, BEAST SURRENDER YOURSELF--AND BRING YOUR WOMAN TO HEEL WITH YOU

I'LL BRING YOU NAUGHT BUT--THIS!

HSSSS

ONCE MORE IT'S NOT FLAME WHICH SPOUTS FROM THE DRAGON'S MAW, BUT VOLCANICALLY-HOT LIQUID--

YET A MAN MAY BE SCALDED TO DEATH AS EASILY AS MERELY BOILED!

A BIT MORE OF THAT AND WE'LL HAVE NEITHER MEN NOR SHIP LEFT!

THE SILVERY SKATES! WHERE?

I--I LEFT THEM IN THE CABIN

THEN DO WHAT YOU CAN HERE, WHILE I FETCH THEM

IT'S FOLLY FOR THE CAPTAIN TO WASTE HIS LIFE IN VAIN ASSAULT AGAINST MAID AND MONSTER--

--WHEN THERE'S ONE ABOARD WHO OWES HER VERY LIFE TO H M!

GODS! SHE'S A BRAVE ONE--FOR ALL THAT SHE'S A FOOL!

MAYBE I *AM* A FIRST CLASS FOOL AT THAT-- *WHOEVER* I AM!

I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW IF I COULD *STAND UP* ON THESE THINGS OR NOT -

-- AND NOW I'M A TARGET FOR THOSE *SPIKE-HEADED SHARKS!*

BUT- THESE *SKATES!* THEY MUST WORK BY *PURE MAGIC!*

RACING ALONG ON THEM IS AS *EASY AS RUNNING!* I EVEN MANAGED TO *DODGE* THAT SHARK AS I LEAPED FROM FLOE TO FLOE

DON'T KNOW IF THE MAGIC WILL *LAST*, THOUGH

SO I'D BETTER SEE IF I CAN CIRCLE AROUND *BEHIND* THAT GIRL AND HER SERPENT BEFORE THEY--

YOU!

UH- OH SOMEONE ATOP THAT *WHALE-* AND HE'S *SPOTTED* ME

STAY RIGHT *THERE* AND PUT DOWN YOUR *SWORD!*

I KNOW *JUST* WHERE I'LL PUT IT-- IF YOU COME DOWN *HERE!*

AYE, THAT I *SHALL!* BEFORE YOU DARE ATTACK EITHER QUEEN OR SERPENT--

-- YOU FIRST MUST DEAL WITH *AQUON!*

AS, ABOVE THE GLEAMING DECKS NEARBY...

STRIKE, SERPENT!-- STRIKE!

LET THE SCUM LEARN THE *PEOPLE OF THE DEEP* WILL NOT STAND IDLY BY WHILE THE CROWN OF LIFE IS PLUNDERED BY *PIRATES!*

THERE ARE THINGS YOU, AS WELL, MUST LEARN, WOMAN -- AND ONE OF THEM IS --

--NEVER COME WITHIN REACH OF A *DESPERATE* FOE!

WHROOM!

AQUANA!

GRIEVE NOT FOR HER! SHE'S *RIGHTLY* SERVED -- FOR ATTACKING THE *ACE QUEEN*--

THE PIRATE SHIP-- BEARING DOWN UPON HER--'

SERPENT! SAVE YOUR MISTRESS!

PERHAPS THE GREAT DRAGON UNDERSTANDS

MORE LIKELY, NOT

YET NEXT MOMENT ITS VAST BULK SLAMS INTO THE CORSAIR CRAFT--

--WITH DEVASTATING RESULTS

FWUSH!

THWAM

ARRRGH..!

CAPTAIN FROST!

HE'S HURT-- AYE, HURT BAD!

AND HERE COMES THE MEAT- SPEWING HELLSPAWN!

AYE THE SERPENT OBEYS *ME* NOW, THROUGH AQUANA & *SCEPTER*

I COULD HAVE IT *ATTACK* YOU ANEW BUT SOMETHING *STAYS* MY HAND

MY LADY *AQUANA* DESIRES THE *CROWN OF LIFE* HIDDEN NEARBY-AS DOES YOUR LEADER--BUT I SAY THERE HAS BEEN *ENOUGH* OF KILLING

LET US *CEASE* THIS STRUGGLE-AND *SLAY NO MORE!*

WELL SAID, BOY.

YET IT'S NOT FOR THE LIKES OF *US* TO DECIDE, IS IT?

THUS, SINCE *AQUANA* CANNOT SPEAK FOR HERSELF JUST NOW

NOR CAN *CAPTAIN FROST.*

IT'S LEFT UP TO THE CHURLISH *CREWMEN*

I CARE NAUGHT FOR THAT CROWN LET'S DO AS THE YOUTH SAYS!

YES LET'S *GO*--WHILE I'VE STILL *ONE* GOOD EYE

'TIS *AGREED*, THEN! WE'LL-

HOLD, MY STURDY LADS!

HEAR NOW THE WORDS OF *HERMINUS!*

I SAY--LET THOSE *TWO WHELPS* DEAL UPON THE ICE, WITH *SWORDS* ALONE AT NO RISK TO *US*--

--WINNER TAKE ALL!

IF THE LASS WINS, WE GET CROWN AND SCEPTER AND LORDSHIP EVEN OVER THE SERPENT-- WHILE IF THE LAD, HE WINS THE ICE QUEEN HERSELF!

WHAT SAY YOU? YOU'VE SEEN THE LASS FIGHT!

AYE! LET THEM FIGHT!

AND EITHER WAY-- HERMINUS SHALL COME OUT ON TOP!

THEN I, TOO... AGREE

I'VE LITTLE CHOICE

BESIDES, A PIRATE'S A PIRATE... FEMALE OR NO!

I REJOICE YOU SAID THAT-- FOR THERE'LL BE NO MORE QUARTER ASKED THAN GIVEN

WHILE I FIGHT FOR ASGANA'S LIFE AND KINGDOM-- NOT FOR MYSELF ALONE!

THUS, WHILE A RECOVERED CAPTAIN FROST WATCHES, KNOWING HIS CREW WILL MUTINY IF [redacted] THEM NOW

AND A HALF-[redacted] STAKES HER ALL UPON HER NEWFOUND LOVE'S SUPERIORITY TO A MERE GIRL.

AND HERMINUS' STUFFS RETRIEVED SKATES INTO HIS AMPLE THIEF BAG.

...TWO SWORDS ARE RAISED AGAINST THE COLD NIGHT SKY

LET THE BATTLE BEGIN!

DO THEY SUSPECT THESE TWO ANTAGONISTS UPON THE SLIPPERY ICE?

AS THEY CROSS SWORDS -- AS EVENLY MATCHED AS ONLY TWINS WITH INTRICATELY ENTWINED DESTINIES CAN --

-DOES SOME SMALL PART OF THE MIND OF EACH RECOGNIZE THE OTHER?

STRANGELY, IT IS ZARRA NOW WHO HAS BECOME THE MORE AGGRESSIVE, THE MORE IMPETUOUS -- ZORR LESS SO THAN BEFORE

THOUGH HE'S NO MAN TO BE COUNTED OUT IN A FIGHT WHICH MAY WELL BE TO THE DEATH

AT LAST AFTER WHAT SEEMS AN ETERNITY OF KLANGING ECHOING SWORD-CLASHINGS

KLONK

I ADMIT IT YOU ARE LESS THE FOP THAN YOU APPEAR!

WHILE YOU HAVE CONSIDERABLE SKILL -- FOR A GIRL!

HOLD! BEFORE WE CONTINUE, AND ONE OF US MUST DIE -

--LET US TAKE A MOMENT TO ASK OUR DEITIES FOR GUIDANCE

YES I -- THE SAME STIRRINGS I FEEL WITHIN MYSELF

I'LL NOT STRIKE YOU WHILE YOU PRAY

YET EVEN AS FURROWED BROWS ARE KNIT FOR AN INSTANT'S CONCENTRATION --

WHAT SORCERY IS THIS, GIRL? SPECTRAL FIGURES -- APPEARING OUT OF NOWHERE?!

THEY'RE NO DOING OF MINE, BOY I KNOW THEM NOT

AND YET SOMEHOW -- I DO!

WE ARE THOSE WHO CAME TO YOU FIRST IN EARTHWORLD, THEN ON FIREWORLD.

AND NOW WE ARE COME AGAIN -- BECAUSE, IN THE DARK RECESSES OF YOUR MINDS YOU CALLED UPON US

W-WE DID!?

AYE BUT THIS TIME, LOOK NOT FOR MENTOARR AND MENTARRA TO GUIDE YOU. FOR YOU MUST BE YOUR OWN GUIDES

MERELY LOOK AT THE ONE YOU WOULD SEEK TO SLAY AND YOU SHALL SEE YOURSELF!

EH? WHAT DO YOU...?

WE CAN SPEAK NO MORE THE REST IS UP TO YOU

REMEMBER - LOOK TO YOURSELVES!

AND WHEN THEY DO AND FACES SO MUCH LIKE THEIR OWN PEER WONDERINGLY BACK

--VEILS OF DARKNESS ARE LIFTED FROM THEIR TROUBLED MINDS

KCHINK!

TARAH--MY SISTER!

DEAR BROTHER--I MIGHT HAVE KILLED YOU!

OR I YOU!

THAT METALLIC TOUCH WHEN SWORDS STRUCK ICE--

DAWN-HAIR! LOOK TO YOUR BLADE!

AGUCH! DO NOT LET AROS'S FANCY ONE RETRIEVE WHAT MUST LIE BURIED THERE

NEVER FEAR AQUANA! WE'LL DRAW IT OUT--

--TOGETHER! SEE HOW THE VERY ICE MELTS, TORR!

LOOK! IT'S HALF A CROWN--SO GLEAMINGLY LOVELY!

AND I'VE THE OTHER HALF!

OUR BLADES SOMEHOW FOUND THE CROWN OF LIFE--EVEN AS THEY SLICED IT IN TWAIN!

YOU'VE -- *DESTROYED* IT! A CROWN SOUGHT FOR *UNTOLD AGES* -- AND BRINGING *TOTAL POWER* OVER THIS WORLD!

NOW -- 'TIS *USELESS!*

NO, *NOT* USELESS --

-- BUT MERELY SOMETHING TO BE *SHARED!*

AGLON AND *DAWN-HAIR* ARE NO MORE -- BUT YOU'VE A *WORLD* TO RULE AND TO SAVE, AS THE *GREAT THAW* CONTINUES.

THERE IS WORLD ENOUGH FOR *ALL* -- BUT NOT FOR *ONE* ONLY!

RISE TO THE CHALLENGE! *JOIN FORCES* AND --

TORR -- *LOOK UP!*

WE SHOULD'VE *KNOWN* THIS WOULD HAPPEN!

NOW THAT WE'VE GAINED THE *THIRD TALISMAN*, ON THIS THIRD WORLD --

--THE *SWORD OF ULTIMATE SORCERY* APPEARS IN THE AIR -- *MOCKING* US WITH ITS NEARNESS, FOR ALL THAT WE *CANNOT TOUCH IT!*

NO! DO *NOT* TOUCH IT, WHELPS!

I WAS THE MASTER THIEF WHO *FIRST* TRIED TO STEAL IT -- AND I'LL HAVE IT *YET.*

THE SWORD IS MINE!

THEN, EVEN AS *UNDERSEA QUEEN* AND *ICE CORSAIR* LOOK DEEP INTO EACH OTHERS' EYES--

--AND EACH REALIZES THAT *HALF A WORLD* IS BETTER FAR THAN *NONE*--

--AND, INDEED, MAY EVEN BE BETTER THAN A *WHOLE* WORLD, RULED ALONE--

NOW AT LAST WE HAVE THEM IN A COSMIC CORNER--FOR THEY HAVE NOWHERE ELSE TO FLEE.

GOOD! THEN MAKE READY A *SPELL*, KONJURO!

THREE WORLDS DOWN, O TYRANNUS.. AND BUT ONE TO GO.

--THE SWORD IS GONE ONCE MORE!

TARA--HOLD ON!

I AM!

--WITH *EERIE* RESULTS:

WH--? CAUGHT-- IN THE *UPDRAFT!* I'M--

BLAST! COULDN'T REACH THOSE BRATS IN TIME TO--

THIS TIME, SUMMONING ALL THEIR ENERGIES GAINED AS *MOMENTARY TWIN MONARCHS* OF WATERWORLD, TORR AND TARRA HAVE MANAGED TO *GRASP* ITS GLISTENING POMMEL--

WE ARE GOING *PERSONALLY*, YOU AND I--

--TO THE PLACE CALLED **AIRWORLD!**

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